

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

All of the claims of the present application, claims 1-11, have been cancelled herein by amendment. New claims 12-27 have been added by amendment to better define what Applicant regards as the invention.

The drawings were objected to for not showing a signal processor incorporating a selecting unit. The objection has been rendered moot by the claim amendments.

The abstract was objected to and has been appropriately amended herein to obviate the objection.

Claims 9-10 were objected to for informalities. The objection has been rendered moot by the claim amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,954 to Weinfurtner. Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the '954 patent. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the '954 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,604,812. The Examiner has not provided a basis for the rejection of claim 3. Claims 1, 2, and 4-11 have been cancelled by amendment rendering the rejections moot.

cl. 3
rejected
under
103(e)

New claims 12-27 are distinguished from the '954 patent as follows. The '954 patent does not disclose "an identification unit in at least one of said peripheral self-contained hardware units, the identification unit having an output and containing identification

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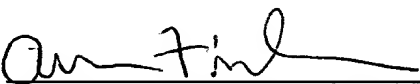
information of said at least one peripheral self-contained hardware unit," as required by claim 12. The components (14, 16, 20-26) previously cited by the Examiner as "peripheral units" are not "self-contained hardware units" as required by new claims 12 and 24. Rather, they are internal components of the hearing aid. Further, the intermediate memories (32) previously cited by the Examiner as "identification units" do not contain "identification information" of the peripheral self-contained hardware units, as required by new claim 12. Rather, the intermediate memories (32) are used for transferring results between calculation modules (30).

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32794US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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